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LETTER DATED 21 MAY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF UGANDA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the request of my Government, I have the honour to forward to you herewith a Peace Agreement on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, signed at Sirte, Libya.

I should be grateful if you will bring the contents of this letter and the annex of the above-mentioned Agreement to the attention of the members of the Security Council and have it circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Prof. SEMAKULA KIWANUKA
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Uganda
to the United Nations

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Annex I

The Peace Agreement

On the basis of the Charter of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), of the first Cariso Summit in 1964 calling for respect of the pre-independence terms,

In view of the military operations in the Great Lakes region leading to the destabilization of peace and security within various States,

Opening the door before foreign interventions, which hinder the aims of the continent towards development and integration,

Out of the Sirte mini-Summit on 30 September 1998 relative to the current conflict in the Great Lakes region,

Confirming the Lusaka Summit held from 13 to 16 January 1999, the preceding meetings and the achieved results aimed at finding a lasting, peaceful solution to the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Realizing the tragedies of the awful massacres as a result of the armed strife in the region,

The signatories to this Agreement have decided the following:

1. Affirm the security and integrity of the political borders of all States.

2. Immediate cessation of hostilities to pave the way for dialogue and peaceful solution.

3. Deployment of neutral African peacekeeping forces in the area where there are troops of Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi inside the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

4. Withdrawal of Ugandan and Rwandan troops will be timed with the arrival of the African peace forces.

5. The signatories to this Agreement condemn all acts of violence and mass murder, and affirm the need to chase the killers, punish and disarm them.

6. Encourage the Democratic Republic of the Congo to initiate a national dialogue for all parties.

7. Withdrawal of all foreign forces present in the Democratic Republic of the Congo as soon as a peace agreement is reached.

8. All parties pledge to refrain from taking actions to overthrow the regime in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

9. Respect the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of countries.

10. Stress the continuity of the leading role of the brother leader as peace coordinator in the Great Lakes region, in creating the climate and mechanism, to liaise with President Shiloba and to accelerate the process of peace.

DONE at Sirte on 18/04/1429 (1999).

(Signed) H.E. Yoweri Kaguta MUSEVENI
President of the Republic of Uganda

(Signed) H.E. Idriss DEBY
President of the Republi of Chad

(Signed) H.E. Issaias AFEWORKI
President of the State of Eritrea

(Signed) H.E. Laurant Désiré KABILA
President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

(Signed) Col. Muamar EL-GADDAFI
Leader of the Great El-Fateh Revolution and Coordinator of the Peace Process in the Great Lakes

Annex II

Peace Agreement on the Democratic Republic of the Congo signed at Sirte, Libya

1. H.E. Col. Muamar Qathafi of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya convened a Summit in Sirte from 17 to 18 April 1999 which was attended by H.E. President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of Uganda, H.E. Idriss Deby of Chad, H.E. President Issaias Afeworki of Eritrea and H.E. President Laurant Désiré Kabila of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

2. The Summit meeting was called to try to bring the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to an end. It was also as a result of H.E. Col. Qathafi's expressed desire to solve problems in Africa before an Extraordinary Summit of the OAU he plans to host in September 1999.

3. At the end of their deliberations, the Presidents reached a Peace Agreement on the Democratic Republic of the Congo. A copy of the Agreement is herewith faxed.

4. The major components of the Sirte Agreement are not new. They have already been agreed on within the framework of the Lusaka Regional Peace Initiative. The only new thing is that President Kabila has agreed to these positions. For President Kabila to sign the Agreement is a significant development from his past position.

5. The Sirte Peace Agreement is linked to the Lusaka Peace Process. The linkage signifies the fact that the Sirte Agreement is a declaration of commitment to the ongoing regional peace process under the facilitation of H.E. President Chiluba of Zambia. Indeed, a ceasefire agreement will have to be negotiated and finalized by all the belligerents in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to enable the cessation of hostilities, the putting in place of an interposition force, the enhancement of internal dialogue and the orderly withdrawal of all foreign troops.

6. Having been in the forefront of the demand for a diplomatic solution to the crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda views the Libyan initiative as positive. It compliments and facilitates the ongoing regional efforts aimed at the peaceful and comprehensive settlement of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. That is why it should be welcomed and supported, as it has the potential of enabling the parties make the much-desired progress. In this respect, it is urgent for H.E. Col. Qathafi to link up with H.E. President Chiluba.